

Writing again to Senator Lodge, on September 20, 1910, he said with characteristic frankness:

"I am perfectly straight on my position, but it is also perfectly true that I had no business to take that position in the fashion I did. A public man is to be condemned if he states a proper position in such fashion that he fails to make his point clear, and permits good men to go wrong from misunderstanding. I ought to have made my original speech, in such fashion that it would have included what I have since said at Syracuse and in the *Outlook*, and it was a blunder of some gravity not to do *it*."

Eoosevelt returned from his western trip early in September and found himself unpleasantly involved in the bitter political wrangle into which his promise to Governor Hughes had precipitated him. That he entered the contest reluctantly and with little or no hope of success, his letters written at this time show conclusively. He had been requested by the Hughes leaders to be their candidate for temporary chairman of the Republican State Convention which was to meet on September 26, 1910, and had consented. The anti-Hughes faction, led by the recognized boss of the party, had selected Vice-President Sherman as its candidate for the same position. Writing to Senator Lodge on September 12, 1910, Eoosevelt said: "It may well be that I shall be beaten at the Convention, and if not at the Convention, we shall in all probability be beaten at the polls. But that does not alter the

fact, that, to
quote the words once used by that worthy non-
Mugwump,
the Black Douglas: 'We have come to the
ring and now
we must hop/ "

Writing again to Senator Lodge on
September 21, 1910,
he said:

"Hughes made a fight on an issue upon which
the people
were not really aroused. He aroused a
considerable frac-
tion of people to support him, but left a much
larger frac-
tion lukewarm and even hostile. As a result
he has put